Dear Wheels' Friends,

We have performed a heart transplant and it looks like a real take! Actually, I guess you would not call it a transplant, but a hundred per cent overhaul! Possum Five had been collecting miles...nearly a half million of them... and it was finally time to rebuild the engine. Like everything else, it ended up costing about twice ($8,000) what we had planned on. However, I have a suspicion that NOTHING would ever get started if we counted the total cost prior to starting the project!

My hat is off to the staff! Hot off the road from the down, the engine removed. While the engine, itself, were rebuilt by the staff. engine support parts ready. IT WAS A GREAT FEELING TO THEY DID!

They did much of the work themselves. interterm trip, Possum Five was broken and sent to the shop for the overhaul. was being rebuilt, all the components. They worked long hours getting all the for the return of the like-new engine. SEE THE GUYS JUMP ON THIS PROJECT LIKE
You have probably never pictured a BIG DIESEL ENGINE as being beautiful, have you? Well, we think it is and it probably is more faithful than most items we deal with. It just seems to keep going. There are many hot nights in Florida that the engine is left running all night to keep the bus air conditioned. Hour after hour it runs and never complains—it just purrs! One of the most important things about having faithful equipment like this is that it frees the staff to concentrate on ministering to the kids.

I have been accused of being an eternal optimist. Every trip is the best! Well, that still holds true. Arizona interterm trip was about as successful as a trip could be. Most of the riders were from Taylor with three other schools represented (Bethel, Calvin, and Spring Arbor). The personalities were just the right blend for a most productive team experience.

After two nights without facilities, the team pulled and 89 create this junction gift shop business is located for about twenty hours. You ALL the facilities!

We stayed there for about an hour during which time I had my fingers crossed, trusting that we wouldn't overwhelm the owner. Well, as the riders started down the highway and I was about to leave, the owner ran out to where I was standing on the highway. He was quite bubbly! He said that he had been on that corner for ten years and everything that had come down the road had stopped at his place. He had seen it all—motorcycle gangs to antique car clubs! To quote him, "Never in all my years has there been a finer group of human beings to stop here than this group of bicycle riders. They were polite, well-behaved, quiet, and courteous ladies and gentlemen!" Boy, did I ever SMILE! He asked, "Who were they anyway?" I told him how they had come from good moms and dads and how most of them had been trained up in a church and, most importantly, how they now are growing in their understanding of Jesus Christ and allowing Jesus to change their lives! I like that style of bragging about the wholeness (holiness) of the Christian experience. Perhaps now you can understand why we feel our
trip was another interterm success.

As I write this newsletter, Wheels is just a few days away from leaving for Florida to conduct four different trips that will stretch from March 5 through the middle of April. A total of about 200 riders will be involved and, as usual, thousands will rub shoulders with them on the road. Our one-week spring break trips have grown to become an important part of our ministry. I am forever bumping into kids who, many years ago, had this brief one-week experience with us. So often their comments reflect the fact that the bike trip really made them start thinking about God. We will spend most of our time on Highway A1A in Florida.

Have you ever received a letter before that bragged about a CEILING in a building? Well, the ceiling in our kitchen facility is one worth coming in off the highway to see! It is a wood mosaic!

The view of the new mosaic ceiling with the pine ocean at the top of the wall. Moving toward the peak are a redwood open country, barn-wood mountains, and cedar sky, even a flat bottom cloud!

It depicts the ocean, mountains, and open country--basically the United States. The idea, of course, is to reflect our coast-to-coast ministry via bikes and buses. Please come and see it! Work on the rest of the building is progressing, even if it is at a slower pace than we had anticipated.

Do you like the EMBLEM? It is the design for the spring and summer riding shirts. It will be sleeves. We want it to the tours. While to make good use of the than not the riders Normally, more effi- when using a lower The riders call it always reminding the riders to GEAR DOWN. if that is true for more true it is in life. hard! Jesus seems to If a person wants to walk

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do it. Live today to the fullest and tomorrow will take care of itself. In life we travel from birth to death and so often our drive is such that we push to create so many buffers that we run right past the sparkle of life—the good, daily "stuff". I find it hard to loan money even if the prospects of getting it back are good, but Jesus said, "Loan it and don't expect to get paid back!" There is a kind of "gearing down" that could really include the sharing of ourselves more fully with other people!

We love you! Thank you for the many ways you support us!

Warmest regards in Christ,

Bob Davenport, Director

BD/ss